

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A load bearing arrangement for use with a work machine of the type having a platform, comprising:

at least one member structured and arranged for coupling to the platform and having a longitudinal axis~~[[; and]]~~, comprising:

at least one top plate;

at least one bottom plate; and

at least one side plate attached to said top plate and said bottom plate,

wherein the side plate has an area that is prone to buckling determined based on predetermined criteria; and

at least one reinforcing structure attached to ~~said member~~ the side plate at the buckling-prone area ~~at least one identified failure-prone location~~, said reinforcing structure having more than one attachment orientation option, relative to said longitudinal axis, ~~to said member so as to minimize a weight of the member.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein ~~[[one]]~~ said reinforcing structure is ~~attached to one said side plate; and another said reinforcing structure is attached to the other said side plate.~~ comprises:

a base portion, and

a rib portion extending from said base portion.

4. (Currently Amended) The load bearing arrangement as set forth claim [[2]] 3,
wherein:

[[each]] said side plate has an inner surface; and

~~at least one~~ the base portion of said reinforcing structure is attached to ~~at least one~~ said inner surface.

5. (Previously Presented) A load bearing arrangement for use with a work machine of the type having a platform, comprising:

at least one member having at least one top plate and at least one bottom plate and structured and arranged for coupling to the platform and having a longitudinal axis;
and

at least one reinforcing structure attached to said member at at least one identified failure-prone location and oriented at an angle β from said longitudinal axis, said reinforcing structure comprising:

a base portion, and

a rib portion extending from said base portion;

wherein said reinforcing structure is coupled to said member substantially between said top plate and said bottom plate.

6. (Currently Amended) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 1 wherein:

said reinforcing structure[[s]] is oriented at an angle β from said longitudinal axis;

and

β is between zero degrees and ninety degrees.

7. (Currently Amended) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 1 wherein said reinforcement structure is laser welded to ~~said member~~ the side plate.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 1 wherein said member is pivotally coupled to a second member.

11. (Original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 1 further comprising an attachment pivotally coupled to said member.

12. (Original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 11 wherein said attachment comprises a bucket.

13. (Currently Amended) A load bearing apparatus, comprising:

a work machine having a platform;

[[at]] a first member, having a longitudinal axis, coupled to said platform;

a first movement means for moving said first member relative to said platform;

a second member, having a longitudinal axis, pivotally coupled to said first member;

a second movement means for moving said second member relative to said first member; and

at least one reinforcing structure having more than one attachment orientation option, relative to a respective longitudinal axis, for attachment to at least one of said first member or said second member ~~so as to minimize a weight of the member~~ at at least one pre-identified buckling-prone location.

14. (Original) The load bearing apparatus as set forth in claim 13 wherein said first and second movement means comprises hydraulic cylinders.

15. (Original) The load bearing apparatus as set forth in claim 13 further comprising an attachment adjacent an end of said second member.

16. (Original) The load bearing apparatus as set forth in claim 13 wherein said attachment comprises a bucket.

17. (Currently Amended) The load bearing apparatus as set forth in claim 13 wherein said at least one of said reinforcing structure[[s]] ~~are attached to at least one of said first or said second members at at least one identified failure-prone location.~~ further comprises:

a base portion, and

a rib portion extending from said base portion.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of reinforcing a load bearing member for use with a work machine, comprising the steps of:

simulating a loading condition on the member;

determining at least one location where the member is prone to buckling based on said simulation step;

providing the member with at least one reinforcing structure at said location.

19. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in claim 18 wherein said simulation step is performed by a computer.

20. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in claim 18 wherein said reinforcing member is laser welded to the member.